

Application No. 10/009,885

Filed: January 22, 2002

Group Art Unit: 3751

In the Claims

Please rewrite claims 1-13 to read as follows:

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1. (Amended) A nib constituted of a segment of a coherent, elongate element of high porosity material, with at least a first end shaped to form a writing tip, wherein pores or capillaries of said material are blocked over a limited thickness at the longitudinal outer periphery of the elongate element, with the exception of the first end forming the writing tip.
 2. (Amended) The nib according to claim 1, wherein for an elongate element of circular cross-section, having a diameter lying in the range of 2 mm to 15 mm, the limited thickness lies in the range of 0.01 mm to 1 mm.
 3. (Amended) The nib according to claim 1, including a sealing agent which blocks the pores or the capillaries of said material over said limited thickness.
 4. (Amended) The nib according to claim 3, wherein the elongate element is a rod that is constituted of acrylic fibers that are

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C7 held together by a melamine formaldehyde resin, and wherein the sealing agent is also a melamine formaldehyde resin.

B1 5. (Amended) The nib according to claim 3, wherein the elongate element is a rod that is constituted of polyester fibers, and wherein the sealing agent is an acid-catalyzed melamine resin, a melamine urea-formaldehyde resin, a two-component epoxy resin, or a two-component polyurethane resin.

6. (Amended) The nib according to claim 1, wherein the elongate element is constituted of sintered microbeads, and wherein the pores are blocked by localized hot-melting of said microbeads over said limited thickness.

7. (Amended) A method of treating a coherent high porosity, elongate element designed to form the nib according to claim 3, the method comprising the steps of:

continuously impregnating said elongate element with a sealing bath having a sealing agent that is inert relative to the components of the ink, impregnation being performed under conditions of viscosity, of time, of surface tensions, and of concentration in particular, such that said bath diffuses into the

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C2 elongate element over a limited thickness at its longitudinal periphery; and

setting the sealing agent.

B1 8. (Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the elongate element is a rod that is constituted of fibers that are secured by a binder, and said binder is used as the sealing agent.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the rod is based on acrylic fibers, and the binding and sealing agent is an acid-catalyzed melamine formaldehyde resin.

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the sealing agent is set by subjecting the elongate element to heat treatment.

11. (Amended) The nib obtained by cutting into segments and machining a high porosity elongate element treated according to the method of claim 7.

12. (Amended) A method of treating a segment of coherent high porosity, elongate element designed to form the nib according to

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C17 claim 6, wherein said segment is obtained by molding and sintering microbeads, and said method comprising the step of:

B1 applying a longitudinal, peripheral, thermal shock over the segment, with the exception of the first end which forms the writing tip, so as to obtain localized hot-melting of the microbeads over a limited thickness.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the thermal shock is performed at a temperature lying in the range of 200°C to 300°C for a period of 1 to 10 seconds.